

MAHONING COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION

Theresa Dellick – Judge
Anthony D’Apolito – Court Administrator
Jason Lanzo- Detention Director

Lisa Mastoris- Chief Deputy Clerk
Wes Skeels – Chief Probation Officer

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For Immediate Release

Mahoning County Family Children First Council Receives *Auditor of State Award*

February 9, 2016 Youngstown, Ohio A recent financial audit of the Mahoning County Family and Children First Council by the State Auditor has returned a clean audit report. The Council’s excellent record keeping has earned the *Auditor of State Award*.

The *Auditor of State Award* is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a financial audit. Entities that receive the award meet the following criteria of a *clean* audit report:

- The entity has timely filed financial reports with the Auditor of State’s office in accordance with the GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles);
- The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs;
- The entity’s management letter contains no comments related to;
 - Ethics referrals
 - Questioned costs less than \$10,000
 - Lack of timely report submission
 - Reconciliation
 - Failure to obtain a timely SINGLE Audit
 - Findings for recovery less than \$100
 - Public meetings or public records

Mahoning County Family and Children First Council (MCFCFC) works to increase the access, capacity and effectiveness of services for the most vulnerable of our county’s youth and their families whose needs extend beyond any one youth-serving program.

In short, FCFC is the only entity that “connects the dots” for children and families who are in need of multiple services.

Any Mahoning County family with a child or youth (age birth through 21 years) in need of a coordinated inter-disciplinary plan to address unique needs is eligible for service coordination through FCFC. Referrals typically come through provider agencies, but any family has the right to self-refer for service coordination.

The Council's work includes the following programs;

- **Service Coordination:** Program for children ages 0-21 receiving services from multiple child serving systems
- **HOME Choice:** Transitioning youth in residential settings back to the community through a person-centered, needs-based system that offers choice of where individuals live and receive high-quality services and supports.
- **Ohio Children's Trust Fund:** Services designed to assist in reducing child abuse and neglect, such as Incredible Years and Strengthening Families Programs.
- **Community Planning and Cross-Systems Initiatives:** Bringing together partners that serve children and families to exchange information, identify areas of need and collaborate on initiatives.
- **ENGAGE:** Improving outcomes related to health, education, employment and living stability for high risk youth and young adults through expansion of High Fidelity WrapAround.
- **Help Me Grow:** Program for Ohio's expectant parents, newborns, infants and toddlers that provide health and developmental services so children start school healthy and ready to learn.

"The extensive list of services and coordination of services provided by the Council help ensure that many children and families receive services producing long term benefits that foster healthier children and families." Rachilla Basista, Mahoning County Family and Children First Council Executive Director.

The Council is funded by contributions from Council partners, county and state allocations and state and federal grants. In addition, significant in-kind support in the form of staffing, materials and other resources increases FCFC's capacity to coordinate services for Mahoning County's children and families.

"As the administrative and fiscal agent for the Mahoning County Family and Children First Council, I am pleased that Juvenile Court COO, Jennifer Pangio, and Rachilla Basista have been recognized by Mr. David Yost, State Auditor, for their hard work and attention to all budgetary requirements set forth by the State, as well as acknowledged for their dedication ensuring accountability and efficiency in Mahoning County."- Juvenile Judge Theresa Dellick.

For more information, please contact Mahoning County Family and Children First Executive Director, Rachilla Basista, at 330-740-2244 Ext.6477 or rbasista@mahoningcountyoh.gov. ###